

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

(a) defining a local area in an input image having a plurality of pixels;

the local area including a target pixel and neighboring pixels surrounding the target pixel, said target pixel and said neighboring pixels each having a pixel value;

(b) applying a filtering operation to the target pixel utilizing the neighboring pixels and the target pixel in the local area, said filtering operation such that said target pixel has a filtered pixel value equal to or most closely equal to a mean value of the pixel values within the local area~~one of pixel values included in said local area according to the filtering operation;~~

(c) defining another local area and another target pixel from said input image and repeating steps (a) and (b) such that every pixel in said input image is filtered in said filtering operation, to thereby produce a filtered image; and

(d) mixing the filtered image and the input image together at a specific mixing ratio, thereby forming an output image.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the step (b) of applying the filtering operation, the pixel having a median value of density values of all the pixels in the local area is extracted, and the median value thus extracted is used for forming the filtered image.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the step (b) of applying the filtering operation,

(b-1) an average value of density values of all the pixels in the local area is calculated;

(b-2) one of the pixels having a nearest density value to the average value in the local area is extracted; and

(b-3) the density value thus extracted is used for forming the filtered image.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of enlarging an original image at a specific enlarging ratio to form the input image.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the mixing ratio is determined according to the enlarging ratio.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

(a) defining a local area in an input image having a plurality of pixels;

the local area including a target pixel and neighboring pixels surrounding the target pixel, said target pixel and said neighboring pixels each having a pixel value;

(b) applying a filtering operation to the target pixel utilizing the neighboring pixels and the target pixel in the local area, said filtering operation such that said target pixel has a filtered pixel value equal to or most closely equal to a mean value of the pixel values within the local area~~one of pixel values included in said local area according to the filtering operation;~~

(c) defining another local area and another target pixel from said input image and repeating steps (a) and (b) such that every pixel in said input image is filtered in said filtering operation, to thereby produce a filtered image;

the filtered image having a jaggy edge different in phase from a jaggy edge in the input image; and

(d) mixing the filtered image and the input image together at a specific mixing ratio, thereby forming an output image;

wherein the jaggy edge in the input image is suppressed by that in the filtered image in the step(d), resulting in the output image.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein in the step (b) of applying the filtering operation, the pixel having a median value of density values of all the pixels in the local area is extracted, and the median value thus extracted is used for forming the filtered image.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein in the step (b) of applying the filtering operation;

(b-1) an average value of density values of all the pixels in the local area is calculated;

(b-2) one of the pixels having a nearest density value to the average value in the local area is extracted; and

(b-3) the density value thus extracted is used for forming the filtered image.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising a step of enlarging an original image at a specific enlarging ratio to form the input image;

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the mixing ratio is adjusted according to the enlarging ratio.

11. (Currently Amended) An image processing system comprising:

(a) means for defining a local area in an input image having a plurality of pixels;

the local area including a target pixel and neighboring pixels surrounding the target pixel, said target pixel and said neighboring pixels each having a pixel value;

(b) a filter for applying a filtering operation to the target pixel utilizing the neighboring pixels and the target pixel in the local area, said filter operating such that said target pixel has a filtered pixel value equal to or most closely equal to a mean value of the pixel values within the local ~~one of pixel values included in said local area according to the filter operation;~~

(c) means for successively defining another local area and another target pixel from said input image such that every pixel in said input image is filtered in said filter, to thereby produce a filtered image; and

(d) an image mixer for mixing the filtered image and the input image together at a specific mixing ratio, thereby forming an output image.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein in the filter, the pixel having a median value of density values of all the pixels in the local area is extracted, and the median value thus extracted is used for forming the filtered image.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein in the filter, an average value of density values of all the pixels in the local area is calculated, one of the pixels having

a nearest density value to the median value in the local area is extracted, and the density value thus extracted is used for forming the filtered image.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 11, further comprising an interpolation processor for enlarging an original image at a specific enlarging ratio through interpolation to form the input image.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 14, wherein the mixing ratio is determined according to the enlarging ratio based on interpolation performed in the interpolation processor.

16. (Currently Amended) An image processing system comprising:

(a) means for defining a local area in an input image having a plurality of pixels;

the local area including a target pixel and neighboring pixels surrounding the target pixel, said target pixel and said neighboring pixels each having a pixel value;

(b) a filter for applying a filtering operation to the target pixel utilizing the neighboring pixels and the target pixel in the local area, said filter operating such that said target pixel has a filtered pixel value equal to or most closely equal to a mean value of the pixel values within the local area~~one of pixel values included in said local area according to the filter operation;~~

(c) means for successively defining another local area and another target pixel from said input image such that every pixel in said input image is filtered in said filter, to thereby produce a filtered image;

the filtered image having a jaggy edge different in phase from a jaggy edge in the input image; and

(d) an image mixer for mixing the filtered image and the input image together at a specific mixing ratio, thereby forming an output image;

wherein the jaggy edge in the input image are suppressed by that in the filtered image in the step (d), resulting in the output image.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 16, wherein in the filter, the pixel having a median value of density values of all the pixels in the local area is extracted, and the median value thus extracted is used for forming the filtered image.

18. (Original) The system according to claim 16, wherein in the filter, an average value of density values of all the pixels in the local area is calculated; one of the pixels having a nearest density value to the median value in the local area is extracted; and the density value thus extracted is used for forming the filtered image.

19. (Original) The system according to claim 16, further comprising a processor for enlarging an original image at a specific enlarging ratio to form the input image.

20. (Original) The system according to claim 19, wherein the mixing ratio is adjusted according to the enlarging ratio.

21. (Original) A display controlling apparatus comprising the image processing system according to claim 11.

22. (Original) A display controlling apparatus comprising the image processing system according to claim 16.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having a computer readable medium and a computer program recorded thereon, the computer program being operable to generate an output image from an input image;

the product comprising:

(a) code that defines a local area in an input image having a plurality of pixels;

the local area including a target pixel and neighboring pixels surrounding the target pixel, said target pixel and said neighboring pixels each having a pixel value;

(b) code that applies a filtering operation to the target pixel utilizing the neighboring pixels and the target pixel in the local area, said filtering operation such that said target pixel has a filtered pixel value equal to or most closely equal to a mean value of the pixel values within the local area~~one of pixel values included in said local area according to the filtering operation;~~

(c) code that successively defines another local area and another target pixel from said input image such that every pixel in said input image is subject to the code that applies the filtering operation, to thereby produce a filtered image; and

(d) code that mixes the filtered image and the input image together at a specific mixing ratio, thereby forming an output image.

24. (Original) The product according to claim 23, wherein in the code (b) that applies the filtering operation, the pixel having a median value of density values of all the pixels in

the local area is extracted, and the median value thus extracted is used for forming the filtered image.

25. (Original) The product according to claim 23, wherein in the code (b) that applies the filtering operation, an average value of density values of all the pixels in the local area is calculated; one of the pixels having a nearest density value to the median value in the local area is extracted; and the density value thus extracted is used for forming the filtered image.

26. (Original) The product according to claim 23, further comprising code that enlarges an original image at a specific enlarging ratio to form the input image.

27. (Original) The product according to claim 26, wherein the mixing ratio is determined according to the enlarging ratio.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having a computer readable medium and a computer program recorded thereon, the computer program being operable to generate an output image from an input image;

the product comprising:

(a) code that defines a local area in an input image; having a plurality of pixels

the local area including a target pixel and neighboring pixels surrounding the target pixel, said target pixel and said neighboring pixels each having a pixel value;

(b) code that applies a filtering operation to the target pixel utilizing the neighboring pixels and the target pixel in the local area, said filtering operation such that said target pixel has a filtered pixel value equal to or most closely equal to a mean value of the

pixel values within the local area~~one of pixel values included in said local area according to the filtering operation;~~

(c) code that successively defines another local area and another target pixel from said input image such that every pixel in said input image is subject to the code that applies the filtering operation, to thereby produce a filtered image;

the filtered image having a jaggy edge different in phase from a jaggy edge in the input image; and

(d) code that mixes the filtered image and the input image together at a specific mixing ratio, thereby forming an output image;

wherein the jaggy edge in the input image are suppressed by that in the filtered image, resulting in the output image.